

TORAH, GOD'S INSTRUCTIONS
NUMBERS 22 – BALAK AND BALAAM

Say - Welcome to Sabbath School class. Let's bow our head and ask God for understanding as we continue our study of the book of Numbers.

Numbers 22

Say – Who was Balak? The word Balak means “devastator”. Balak hired Balaam to pronounce a curse on the Israelites, Numbers 22-24. In Revelation the Bible tells us “¹⁴But I have a few things against thee, because thou hast there them that hold the doctrine of Balaam, who taught Balac to cast a stumblingblock before the children of Israel, to eat things sacrificed unto idols, and to commit fornication (and led them into idolatry) Revelation 2:14. From the New Compact Bible Dictionary, Pg. 68.

Who was Balaam? The word Balaam means “devourer”. The Bible tells us “⁴Because they met you not with bread and with water in the way, when ye came forth out of Egypt; and because they hired against thee Balaam the son of Beor of Pethor of Mesopotamia, to curse thee. ⁵Nevertheless the LORD thy God would not hearken unto Balaam; but the LORD thy God turned the curse into a blessing unto thee, because the LORD thy God loved thee. ⁶Thou shalt not seek their peace nor their prosperity all thy days for ever.” Deuteronomy 23:4-6. From the New Compact Bible Dictionary, Pg. 68.

Balaam tried to turn the Israelites away from the true God but the Israelites killed him “⁸And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.” Numbers 31:8.

In 2 Peter the Bible tells us “¹⁴Having eyes full of adultery, and that cannot cease from sin; beguiling unstable souls: an heart they have exercised with covetous practices; cursed children: ¹⁵Which have forsaken the right way, and are gone astray, following the way of Balaam the son of Bosor, who loved the wages of unrighteousness;” 2 Peter 2:14-15.

Chapter 22 below.

¹And the children of Israel set forward, and pitched in the plains of Moab on this side Jordan by Jericho.

²And Balak the son of Zippor saw all that Israel had done to the Amorites.

³And Moab was sore afraid of the people, because they were many: and Moab was distressed because of the children of Israel.

⁴And Moab said unto the elders of Midian, Now shall this company lick up all that are round about us, as the ox licketh up the grass of the field. And Balak the son of Zippor was king of the Moabites at that time.

Say – The Moabites hated the God of the Abraham; the Moabites were children of Lots, a nephew of Abraham, did not need to fear the Israelites for God had told them “⁹And the LORD said unto me, Distress not the Moabites, neither contend with them in battle: for I will not give thee of their land for a possession; because I have given Ar (land of giants) unto the children of Lot for a possession.” Deuteronomy 2:9.

⁵He sent messengers therefore unto Balaam the son of Beor to Pethor, which is by the river of the land of the children of his people, to call him, saying, Behold, there is a people come out from Egypt: behold, they cover the face of the earth, and they abide over against me: (worried about things which will never happen)

⁶Come now therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people; for they are too mighty for me: peradventure I shall prevail, that we may smite them, and that I may drive them out of the land: for I wot that he whom thou blessest is blessed, and he whom thou cursest is cursed.

⁷And the elders of Moab and the elders of Midian departed with the rewards of divination in their hand (divination is the practice of foreseeing the future events or discovering hidden knowledge which was forbidden of the Israelites, Leviticus 19:26 which says “²⁶Ye shall not eat any thing with the blood: neither shall ye use enchantment, nor observe times.” Leviticus 19:26.); and they came unto Balaam, and spake unto him the words of Balak.

⁸And he (Balaam) said unto them, Lodge here this night, and I will bring you word again, as the LORD (Jehovah the one who became Jesus) shall speak unto me: and the princes of Moab abode with Balaam.

⁹And God came unto Balaam, and said, What men are these with thee?

¹⁰And Balaam said unto God, Balak the son of Zippor, king of Moab, hath sent unto me, saying,

¹¹Behold, there is a people come out of Egypt, which covereth the face of the earth: come now, curse me them; peradventure I shall be able to overcome them, and drive them out.

¹²And God said unto Balaam, Thou shalt not go with them; thou shalt not curse the people: for they are blessed (this was the reason Balaam was not to curse them for they were blessed by God).

¹³And Balaam rose up in the morning, and said unto the princes of Balak, Get you into your land: for the LORD refuseth to give me leave to go with you (Balaam did not tell them the children of Israel were blessed by God).

¹⁴And the princes of Moab rose up, and they went unto Balak, and said, Balaam refuseth to come with us (They did not tell them the entire story either.).

¹⁵And Balak sent yet again princes, more, and more honourable than they.

¹⁶And they came to Balaam, and said to him, Thus saith Balak the son of Zippor, Let nothing, I pray thee, hinder thee from coming unto me:

¹⁷For I will promote thee unto very great honour, and I will do whatsoever thou sayest unto me: come therefore, I pray thee, curse me this people.

¹⁸And Balaam answered and said unto the servants of Balak, If Balak would give me his house full of silver and gold, I cannot go beyond the word of the LORD my God, to do less or more.

¹⁹Now therefore, I pray you, tarry ye also here this night, that I may know what the LORD will say unto me more.

²⁰And God came unto Balaam at night, and said unto him, If the men come to call thee, rise up, and go with them; but yet the word which I shall say unto thee, that shalt thou do.

Say – Balaam’s donkey speaks. God is orchestrating all things.

²¹And Balaam rose up in the morning, and saddled his ass, and went with the princes of Moab.

²²And God's anger was kindled because he went: and the angel of the LORD stood in the way for an adversary against him. Now he was riding upon his ass, and his two servants were with him.

²³And the ass saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and the ass turned aside out of the way, and went into the field: and Balaam smote the ass, to turn her into the way. (The Bible tells us “And when Balaam saw that it pleased the LORD to bless Israel, he went not, as at the other times, to meet with enchantments, but he set his face toward the wilderness. And Balaam lifted up (to God) his eyes, and he saw Israel abiding in his tents according to their tribes; and the spirit of God came upon him. And he took up his parable, and said, Balaam the son of Beor hath said, and the man whose eyes are open said; He hath said, which heard the words of God, which saw the vision of the Almighty, falling into a trance, and having his eyes open:” Numbers 24:1-4.)

²⁴But the angel of the LORD stood in a path of the vineyards, a wall being on this side, and a wall on that side.

²⁵And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she thrust herself unto the wall, and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall: and he smote her again (Balaam doesn't see the angel of the Lord yet.).

²⁶And the angel of the LORD went further, and stood in a narrow place, where was no way to turn either to the right hand or to the left.

²⁷And when the ass saw the angel of the LORD, she fell down under Balaam: and Balaam's anger was kindled, and he smote the ass with a staff.

²⁸And the LORD opened the mouth of the ass, and she said unto Balaam, What have I done unto thee, that thou hast smitten me these three times? (Balaam doesn't say why are you talking but had a conversation with her.)

²⁹And Balaam said unto the ass, Because thou hast mocked me: I would there were a sword in mine hand, for now would I kill thee.

³⁰And the ass said unto Balaam, Am not I thine ass, upon which thou hast ridden ever since I was thine unto this day? was I ever wont to do so unto thee? and he said, Nay.

³¹Then the LORD opened the eyes of Balaam, and he saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way, and his sword drawn in his hand: and he bowed down his head, and fell flat on his face. (God and the angel of the LORD are interchangeable. You don't bow down to an angel; was standing before God.)

³²And the angel of the LORD said unto him, Wherefore hast thou smitten thine ass these three times? behold, I went out to withstand thee, because thy way is perverse before me (Is contrary unto me.):

³³And the ass saw me, and turned from me these three times: unless she had turned from me, surely now also I had slain thee, and saved her alive (God allows us to do many things but it does not mean He approves.).

³⁴And Balaam said unto the angel of the LORD, I have sinned; for I knew not that thou stoodest in the way against me: now therefore, if it displease thee, I will get me back again (Balaam still does not recognize his attitude was what was wrong.).

³⁵And the angel of the LORD said unto Balaam, Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto thee, that thou shalt speak. So Balaam went with the princes of Balak. (God does not want anyone to speak their own words.)

³⁶And when Balak heard that Balaam was come, he went out to meet him unto a city of Moab, which is in the border of Arnon, which is in the utmost coast.

³⁷And Balak said unto Balaam, Did I not earnestly send unto thee to call thee? wherefore camest thou not unto me? am I not able indeed to promote thee to honour?

³⁸And Balaam said unto Balak, Lo, I am come unto thee: have I now any power at all to say any thing? the word that God putteth in my mouth, that shall I speak.

³⁹And Balaam went with Balak, and they came unto Kirjathhuzoth.

⁴⁰And Balak offered oxen and sheep, and sent to Balaam, and to the princes that were with him. (Everyone knew the Law about clean and unclean meats, even the pagans.)

⁴¹And it came to pass on the morrow, that Balak took Balaam, and brought him up into the high places of Baal, that thence he might see the utmost part of the people.

Who was Baal? The word Baal means “lord” “possessor” or “husband”. Baal was a farm god of the Phoenicians and Canaanites; Baal was responsible for crops, flocks and farm animals. Each locality had its own Baal and was worshipped on high places with self-torture and human sacrifice. From the New Compact Bible Dictionary, pg. 66.

MEMORY VERSE

BELOW IS THE SABBATH SCHOOL LESSON FOR TOTS

Who was Balak? The work Balak means “devastator”. Balak hired Balaam to pronounce a curse on the Israelites, Numbers 22-24, but God turned it into a blessing for he loved the children of Israel.

Who was Balaam? Balaam tried to turn the Israelites away from the true God and have them go into idolatry but the Israelites killed him “⁸And they slew the kings of Midian, beside the rest of them that were slain; namely, Evi, and Rekem, and Zur, and Hur, and Reba, five kings of Midian: Balaam also the son of Beor they slew with the sword.” Numbers 31:8. Idolatry means the worship of idols or the worship of a person or thing which goes against the True God which means we are rejecting His teachings, I Samuel 15:23.

BALAAM'S DONKEY SPEAKS; GOD IS ORCHESTRATING ALL THINGS

Balaam rose up in the morning and saddled his donkey and went with the leaders of Moab. God's anger was against Balaam for going with them. And the angel of the LORD stood in the way against him. (The "angel of the LORD is God.")

It is interesting because the donkey saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way and his sword was drawn in his hand. The donkey turned out of the way and went into a field and Balaam hit the donkey and turned her around.

But the angel of the LORD stood in the path of the vineyards with a wall on each side. And when the donkey saw the angel of the LORD she thrust herself into the wall and crushed Balaam's foot against the wall. Balaam hit the donkey again for Balaam could not see the angel of the LORD.

The angel of the LORD went further and stood in a narrow place where there was not way to turn to the right hand or to the left.

When the donkey saw the angel of the LORD she fell down under Balaam. Balaam's anger was against the donkey and he hit the donkey with his staff.

Now the LORD opened the mouth of the donkey and she said unto Balaam "What have I done unto you because you have hit me three times".

Balaam said to the donkey "you have mocked me and I wish I had a sword in my hand and I would kill you".

The donkey said unto Balaam "Am not I your donkey upon which have ridden for many days?"

The LORD opened the eyes of Balaam and Balaam saw the angel of the LORD standing in the way and his sword was drawn in his hand. Balaam bowed his head and fell flat on his face.

The angel of the LORD said unto Balaam "Why have you hit your donkey three times, I went out to withstand you because your way is perverse before me ("Perverse" means contrary to God.) The donkey saw me and turned from me three times. Unless she had turned from me I would have slain you and saved the donkey alive.

Balaam said unto the LORD "I have sinned for I knew not that you stood in the way against me." (Balaam still does not know his attitude was wrong.)

The angel of the LORD said unto Balaam "Go with the men: but only the word that I shall speak unto you is what you are to say". So Balaam went with the princes of Balak.

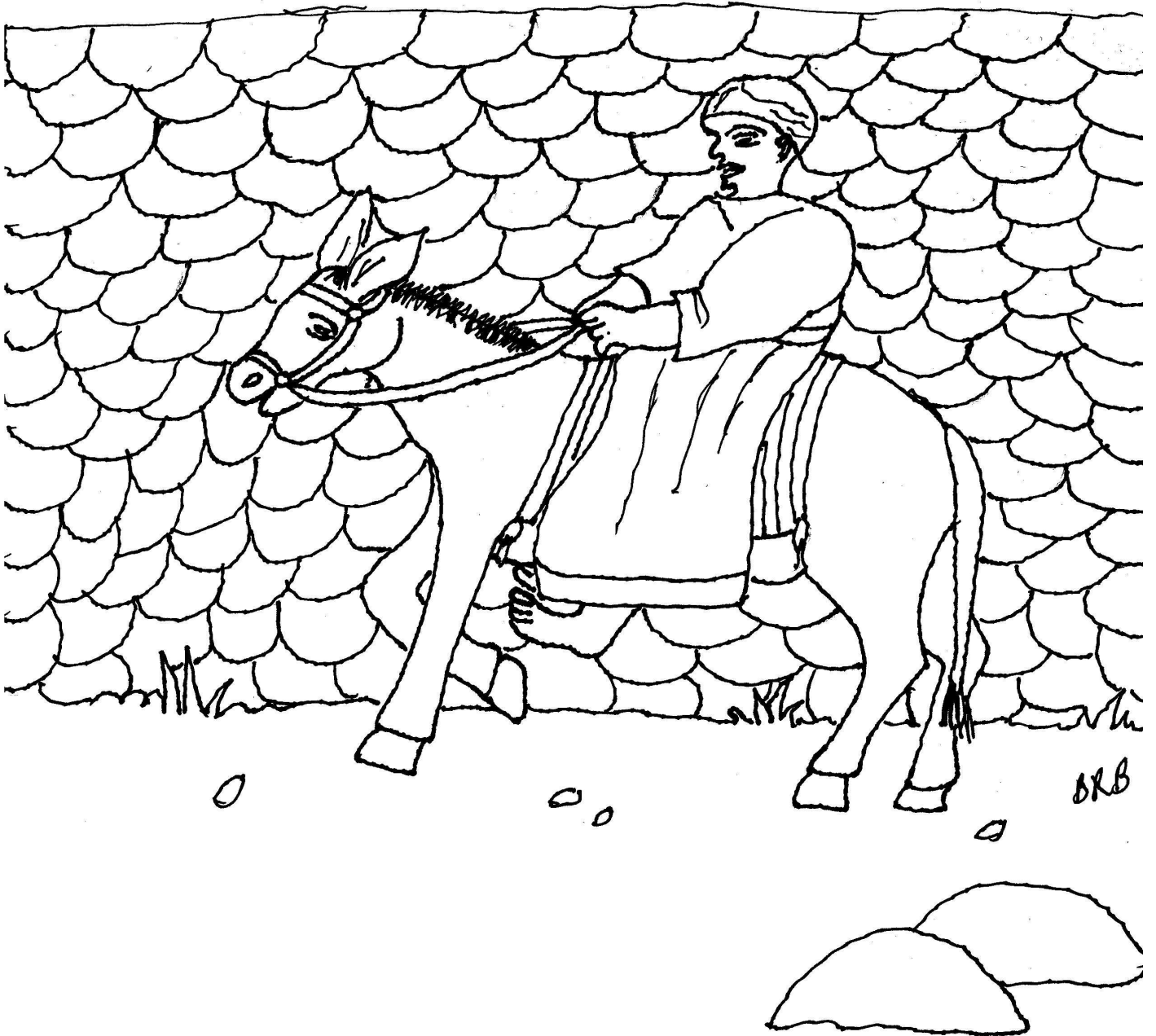
When Balak heard that Balaam had come he went out to meet him in a city of Moab. Finally Balaam realized "The word that God puts in my mouth, that shall I speak".

And it came to pass on the morrow Balak took Balaam and brought him up to the high places of Baal.

We will learn more about Baal in next week's lesson.

Who was Baal? The word Baal means "lord" "possessor" or "husband". Baal was a farm god of the Phoenicians and Canaanites; Baal was responsible for crops, flocks and farm animals. Each locality had its own Baal and was worshipped on high places with self-torture and human sacrifice. From the New Compact Bible Dictionary, pg. 66.

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OF THE LORD,*



*SHE THRUST HERSELF UNTO THE WALL,
AND CRUSHED BALAAM'S FOOT AGAINST THE WALL;
AND HE SMOTE HER AGAIN.
NUMBERS 22:25*